

# I. THE STORY LINE

## A. Digging for Facts

1. When the ship rolls badly, Mrs. Renshaw (a) watches her plate of poached turbot slide away, (b) gives a little scream and clutches the purser's arm, (c) makes jokes about the weather.
2. The purser is (a) small and fat and red-haired, (b) small and fat and red, (c) smug and fat and red-haired.
3. The captain usually makes his estimate on the day's run (a) after dinner in the smoking room, (b) about four o'clock in the morning, (c) around four o'clock in the afternoon.
4. The captain estimates the day's run at (a) 465 miles, (b) 620 miles, (c) 515 miles.
5. Mr. Botibol discovers that the pool contains (a) twenty-one hundred odd pounds, (b) nine thousand dollars, (c) five thousand four hundred pounds.
6. In the morning, Mr. Botibol finds that the sea is (a) moderately rough, (b) smooth as glass, (c) moderately calm.

7. Mr. Botibol knows Ethel will be angry about his not having money for (a) the pale-blue Lincoln convertible, (b) her ticket on the ship, (c) the installments on the television set and the Encyclopedia Britannica.

8. Mr. Botibol is at first afraid that the woman with the fat ankles (a) is deaf and blind, (b) will forget she saw him, (c) will leave before he can jump overboard.

9. For his jump, Mr. Botibol is dressed in (a) white shirt and blue shorts, (b) white shorts and tennis shoes, (c) blue shorts and white tennis shoes.

10. The bony angular woman is a (a) spinster, (b) sister-in-law, (c) sister.

## B. Probing for Theme

Read the three thematic statements below. Which one best applies to "Dip in the Pool"?

1. The best laid plans of mice and men sometimes fail to work out as scheduled.
2. If you gamble for a good cause, you are sure to succeed.
3. There are easy ways to secure money, if you plan carefully the steps to achieve it.

## II. IN SEARCH OF MEANING

1. What does this story tell you about taking risks? Do you think that Mr. Botibol has ever gambled before?
2. How do you think Mr. Botibol feels about Ethel? Does he gamble for her or for himself? Is his primary emotion love, fear, or pride when he makes his bid?
3. Think about the expression, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." How do you think it relates to this story?
4. What solution other than "jumping" might Mr. Botibol have found? Would you have had confidence in the woman with the fat ankles?
5. The title of this story has a double meaning. Explain what you think might be the author's two definitions of a "dip in the pool."

## III. DEVELOPING WORD POWER

### Exercise A

Here are more words that may not have been clear to you when you read the story. First, you will see the original use of the word. After you have read the phrase, select the correct meaning from the four possible choices.



1. genial  
"... the sense of comfort that it brought created a more *genial* atmosphere over the whole ship."  
a. exuberant      c. hostile  
b. friendly      d. disagreeable
2. subtle  
"... it was enough to cause a *subtle*, immediate change of mood over the whole room."  
a. direct      c. implied  
b. honest      d. important
3. apprehension  
"... smiling nervously, little secret glimmers of *apprehension* in their eyes."  
a. dread      c. anticipation  
b. courage      d. imagination
4. subsided  
"The excitement *subsided*."  
a. stopped      c. intensified  
b. dwindled      d. commenced
5. welling  
"... where the great waves were *welling* up high..."  
a. gushing      c. slowing  
b. sinking      d. spraying

## 6. astern

"They'd have to put her in reverse and go full speed *astern*..."

- a. sideways
- b. forward
- c. backward
- d. northward

## 7. advertent

"... a cautious man at the best of times—unusually *advertent*."

- a. angry
- b. worried
- c. anxious
- d. attentive

## 8. assailed

"... but now a new fear *assailed* him."

- a. conquered
- b. angered
- c. buoyed
- d. attacked

## 9. turbulent

"... she leaned forward far over the rail, staring at the water where it was *turbulent* in the ship's wake."

- a. calm
- b. deep
- c. agitated
- d. salty

## 10. angular

"This one was bony and *angular*, and she wore horn-rimmed spectacles."

- a. obese
- b. gaunt
- c. thin-lipped
- d. ruddy

## Exercise B

From the list of vocabulary words listed at the beginning of this exercise, choose the appropriate word for the blank in each of the following sentences.

- a. hollandaise
  - b. smug
  - c. slacken
  - d. currency
  - e. charities
  - f. prickle
  - g. contempt
  - h. gratifying
  - i. tension
  - j. fetched
1. The continued presence of her mother-in-law in the kitchen created \_\_\_?\_\_\_ in the nervous young bride.
  2. The excellent response of the people to the fund drive was \_\_\_?\_\_\_ to the sponsors.
  3. The tourist felt he lost money in exchanging his dollars for the \_\_\_?\_\_\_ of the Asian country.
  4. The chef carefully mixed together the butter, egg yolks and lemon juice to create his favorite \_\_\_?\_\_\_ sauce.
  5. The boy \_\_\_?\_\_\_ home a heaping bucket of blackberries.
  6. The model will \_\_\_?\_\_\_ her pace when she passes by the judges' table.